



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®**  
**FOR HEALTHY LIVING**  
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## **THE WRITERS VOICE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK DOWNTOWN WRITERS CENTER and WRITERS VOICE ONLINE WRITING WORKSHOPS – SPRING 2024**

### **STONE CANOE**

*Stone Canoe* is the only journal of art and literature focused entirely on practitioners from upstate New York. Submissions for the 2025 issue will open on April 15th... we encourage our students and audience members to send in their poems, stories, essays, and art for consideration!

Also, join us for this year's *Stone Canoe* Launch Party on Friday, April 26th. The event is sponsored by the Syracuse University Humanities Center... we'll have readings by several contributors to the new 2024 issue, refreshments, and of course, you'll be able to get a copy of this year's journal for the first time!



#### **KEY TO COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**BEG Beginner.** These courses are open to all students, but are geared specifically towards new writers. If you are a new writer, start here or **All!**

**INT Intermediate.** These courses are for students with previous writing experience, and some degree of familiarity with writing workshops.

**ALL All.** Course content is geared to writers of all experience levels... including beginners!

**PRO DWC PRO/ADVANCED.** Space may be limited in these advanced courses for students not enrolled in DWC PRO; a manuscript review may also be required for new students.

**G Generative.** These courses focus on creating new work through exercises and prompts.

**S Seminar.** Classes that examine specific elements of literary schools, craft, and/or writing theory in practice, reading often required.

**W Workshop.** Workshops focus on peer critique and/or revision strategies.

**M Multiple Styles.** Classes will incorporate multiple instruction styles.

**DWC** Course will take place in-person at the Y.

**ONLINE** Course will take place on Zoom/etc.

**HYBRID** Students can participate either in-person at the YMCA or online.

**ASYNCH** Learn at your own pace in these asynchronous courses!

# SPRING 2024 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

## POETRY COURSES

**INT = M = DWG Poetry as Legacy** with Gloria Heffernan. Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 8 weeks, starting April 10. What stories do you want to leave behind for future generations? In this generative workshop, we will write from prompts, read exemplary poems, and share work of our own that is written from the heart.

**ALL = G = ONLINE Structure & Surprise** with Tresha Haefner. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 11. Poems are meant to move us, but how do you get them to move? This fun, useful, and engaging workshop will use the book and blog *Structure and Surprise*, to help participants learn valuable tools for writing stronger, more surprising poems.

**ALL = G = ASYNCH Poetry & Film** with Heather Bartlett. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 11. This class will use the language and concepts of film—camera shots and angles, movement and structure—to explore the craft of writing poetry. Students will write several poem-films from prompts and exercises.

**ALL = S = ONLINE Contemporary World Poetry** with Christopher Citro. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 9. This seminar course will survey contemporary poetry—written in English or translated into English—from a diverse, international selection of poets. Intended for both writers and readers who love poetry and want to explore and be inspired by what poets around the world are creating. No prior knowledge is required, just bring an open mind and a joy of reading!

**ALL = S = ONLINE Singing in the Dark: Poems of Witness and Resistance** with Melissa Tuckey. Thursdays, 4:00-6:00. 4 weeks, starting April 18. Bertolt Brecht wrote, “In the dark times, / will there be singing? / Yes, there will be singing. / About the dark times.” In this 4-week seminar, we will read some powerful contemporary, multi-cultural poems that successfully navigate the space between personal and political. The workshop will include writing prompts, and time for writing, and feedback.

**INT = W = ASYNCH Make, Break, and Repair** with Sherre Vernon. Sundays, 12:00-2:00. 8 weeks, starting April 14. On alternating weeks, we will meet via Zoom to try out revision strategies. On asynchronous weeks, we will focus on implementing and submitting revisions. You’ll leave this workshop

with several new ways of revising, that is “re-seeing,” your work.

**ALL = M = HYBRID Lyric Poetry: True to Form** with Sara Parrott. Thursdays, 6:30-8:30. 8 weeks, starting April 11. Enrich your writing through time-honored and new poetic forms you can call your own. Materials provided weekly include examples, writing prompts, and constructive feedback.

**PRO = W = ONLINE DWC PRO Poetry Workshop** with Yvonne Murphy. Mondays, 6:00-8:30. 8 weeks, starting April 8. Elevate your poems from “Guess I’ll keep this,” to “Wow! I can’t wait to share this!” in this collaborative workshop that investigates how great poems work. This course is for experienced poets whose goal is publication. Limited space is available for DWC PRO graduates and other advanced students. Call 474.6851 x380 for details.

## NONFICTION COURSES

**ALL = W = ONLINE The Spring Flow** with Georgia Popoff. 8 weeks. Two sections: Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00, starting April 10, OR Thursdays, 1:00-3:00, starting April 11. Our popular nonfiction critique workshop continues with weekly comments and detailed table critique that are the essence of this group, which welcomes new members. If you are working on a nonfiction project or need encouragement to resume a writing practice, join us!

**BEG = G = ONLINE Introduction to Memoir** with Susan Keeter. Mondays, 6:00-8:00. 6 weeks, starting April 8. Do you want to write a memoir or help a loved one write theirs? Using writing prompts based on StoryCorps interview questions and Modern Love’s “36 Questions that Lead to Love,” this class will help you start writing a manuscript that is soul-searching, intimate and satisfying.

## FICTION COURSES

**INT = W = ONLINE The Writer’s Life, Part III: Entering the Workshop** with Chris DelGuercio. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 16. The final Writer’s Life class is your opportunity to receive constructive feedback. Through the careful guidance of the instructor, you will receive focused peer critique that’s necessary to take your work to new heights!

**INT = M = ASYNCH From News Story to Story** with Sarah Cedeño. Mondays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks,

# MORE SPRING 2024 CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

*starting April 8.* News articles scaffold stories that explore emotional truths (think Oates' "Where Are You Going, Where Have you Been?"). Over eight weeks, through empathy, distance, and research, you'll embark on a rewarding story-telling journey.

**INT = M = ONLINE Children's Book Critique Group** with Susan Keeter. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 6 weeks, starting April 10. Have you been writing for children and wish you could share your work with like-minded writers? Are you looking for a critique group with peers? Share work in progress, get constructive criticism, and ready yourself for the challenges of professional publishing.

**INT = M = ONLINE Fiction Reboot** with Keith Stahl. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 10. Share creative, insightful ideas for ongoing projects in a supportive environment and use in-class exercises to energize new work. We'll discuss techniques, our individual processes, and get some suggestions for outside reading.

**ALL = M = ONLINE Add Authenticity to Your Mystery Writing** with Mary Jumbelic. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 10. You will learn how to describe a dead body and the roles of your forensic characters, and add suspense to make your mystery writing come alive. Lectures will bring scientific sophistication and writing exercises will help you apply what you're learning.

**INT = S = HYBRID Point of View in Fiction Writing** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Mondays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 8. This class takes a deep dive through the layers of first, second, and third person and into the impacts of fiction writers' voices and choices. We'll read and write fiction together with a focus on the resonance of using different points of view!

## DRAMATIC WRITING

**ALL = W = ONLINE I'm Talking Here: Diction in Playwriting** with Len Fonte. Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 11. Plays are built on engaging dialogue. We will explore ways to create vibrant characters through the way they speak. A goal is to complete a ten-minute play or scene in a longer work.

## CROSS-GENRE COURSES

**PRO = W = ONLINE DWC PRO Prose Workshop** with Georgia Popoff. Mondays, 6:00-8:30. 8 weeks, starting April 8. Discover a variety of tools to grow your writing practice and explore ways writers have crafted personal stories that relate to the larger social, cultural, and historical concerns of our time. Limited space is available for DWC PRO graduates and other advanced prose students. Call 474.6851 x380 for details.

**ALL = S = HYBRID Finding Your Space as an LGBTQ+ Writer** with Gemma Cooper-Novack. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 10. How can LGBTQ+ writers find space for our own work and identify the multiple literary traditions and present moments we might belong to? This course will involve deep reading of fiction, poetry, and scripts by LGBTQ+ writers, and writing exercises drawn from these works that will help you to develop your understanding, voice, and skills as a queer writer.

**INT = M = ONLINE Know Thyself** with Kayla Blatchley. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 9. A workshop dedicated to coming to a deeper understanding and informed analysis of our unique style and voice as writers. Students should expect to share and analyze their work, uncover their toolbox, be attentive and active listeners for others, and to evaluate their habits, style and obsessions in order to refine and create new work.

**INT = M = ASYNCH Writing Palm-of-the-Hand Stories** with Cate McGowan. Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00. 8 weeks, starting April 9. You'll write micro-stories or, as Yasunari Kawabata coined them, Palm-of-the-Hand stories, getting out of your head and letting your fingers fly after reading examples of the form. We'll also discuss publishing options.

**ALL = S = ONLINE Spring Reading Series Book Club** with Phil Memmer. Tuesdays, 5:00-5:50, with sessions occurring the Tuesday before each Visiting Author Reading Series Event. Each week, the DWC Book Club reads and discusses the latest book by each author in our Visiting Author Reading Series. It's a great way to warm up for each week's Friday night reading! Best of all, Book Club itself is free... you just purchase the books through the DWC, at a discount. This season's Club includes eight books.

# COURSES FOR TEENS

## YOUNG AUTHORS ACADEMY

A Saturday workshop for 6th-12th graders who are on fire to write.

Now celebrating our 14th year!  
10 weeks, starting April 13.

## NUMBERLESS DREAMS

Also on Saturdays, an online writing workshop for teens with disabilities, taught by professional writers with disabilities.  
10 weeks, starting April 13.

No programs Memorial Day weekend.

### For more information:

Georgia Popoff / gpopoff@ymcacny.org  
(315) 474-6851 x380  
or visit <https://www.ymcacny.org/dwcyoung-authors-academy.html>

## WORKSHOP REMINDERS...

All enrollment is first-come, first-served.

All class times are Eastern.

We do not call to confirm registrations; we will, however, call you if there is any problem.

Refunds are not given after a course begins. (If a course is canceled, all payments are refunded.)

If a course has a required text listed in its description, you will need to obtain that text before the first class meeting.

## THANK YOU

The DWC is supported with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, with the support of the office of the Governor and the NYS Legislature. Additional support is provided by Onondaga County and CNY Arts.



**Council on  
the Arts**



## REGISTRATION FOR YMCA OF CNY MEMBERS

*(Y members from other YMCAs, please see instructions at the bottom of this column):*

**STEP 1: ENSURE A VALID EMAIL ADDRESS IS CONNECTED TO YOUR YMCA OF CNY MEMBERSHIP.** If you are unsure, contact Member Services.

**STEP 2: GO TO [YMCACNY.ORG/MYACCOUNT](https://ymcacny.org/myaccount).** Under the "I Want to Set Up Online Access for My Account" box, click "Find Account." Enter your last name, DOB (mm/dd/yyyy) and zip code.

**STEP 3: ENTER THE EMAIL ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP.** A secure link will be sent to this address prompting you to create a password.

**STEP 4: CHECK YOUR EMAIL.** Click the link and create your password (*must include at least 7 characters and contain at least one capital letter and one number*).

**STEP 5: GO TO [YMCACNY.ORG/MYACCOUNT](https://ymcacny.org/myaccount).** Enter your email address and password in the first box, then search for programs and register online!

To take advantage of your free course benefit, use promo code "DWCSRING24" when you register.

Please note that you must complete your transaction for your free course, then start a new transaction for any additional courses.

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## REGISTRATION FOR ALL OTHER STUDENTS:

Register by phone with a credit card by calling (315) 474-6851 x380.

If you must pay by check, please call first to reserve your place, then return your form with check payable to YMCA to:

The YMCA's Downtown Writers Center,  
340 Montgomery St., Syracuse, NY 13202

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Member of a YMCA other than the YMCA of Central New York? You're eligible to take all DWC workshops at a discount!  
Use promo code "DWC YUSA".

<https://ymcacny.org/dwc>

## SPRING FACULTY BIOS

**Heather Bartlett** is the author of *Another Word for Hunger* (Sundress Publications). She teaches writing at SUNY Cortland and is founding editor of the online literary magazine *Hoxie Gorge Review*.

**Kayla Blatchley** is a fiction writer and writing teacher living in Syracuse, NY. She teaches fiction, non-fiction, and cross-genre courses, with the goal of exposing more writers to different ways of reading, writing, and revising.

**Tim Carter** is the Director of Writing Workshops at the DWC, and the author of *Remains* (2022) and *The Pigs* (2023). [www.thcarter.info](http://www.thcarter.info).

**Sarah Cedeño's** a writer, educator, and former Village Historian. Her forthcoming story collection, written during her MFAW at Goddard College, was inspired by 20th century Brockport Republic news stories.

**Christopher Citro** is the author of *If We Had a Lemon We'd Throw It and Call That the Sun* (2020), and *The Maintenance of the Shimmy-Shammy* (2015). His poetry has appeared in the *Best New Poets* and *Pushcart Prize* anthologies.

**Gemma Cooper-Novack** is a queer writer, playwright, writing coach, and educator. Her work has been published in more than 50 journals; her plays produced across the United States; she is the author of *We Might As Well Be Underwater* (2017).

**Chris DelGuercio** is a writer, teacher, editor, and lecturer. His new collection of short stories is *An Unsettled Score* (2023). [www.CDelGuercio.com](http://www.CDelGuercio.com).

**Len Fonte's** plays include SALT Award winner *Werewolf*, *Wasted Bread*, *Melagrana*, and *Hip/Shake* (with Reenah Golden). He taught playwriting at Syracuse University and is a theater critic for the *Syracuse Post-Standard*.

**Tresha Faye Haefner** is an author, creativity coach, and speaker who uses research-based methods to help others develop their most authentic creative abilities.

**Gloria Heffernan's** *Exploring Poetry of Presence* won the CNY Book Award for Nonfiction. She also wrote the poetry collections, *What the Gratitude List Said to the Bucket List* (NYQ Books) and *Perigrinatio: Poems for Antarctica*.

**Mary Jumbelic**, M.D., is the former Chief medical examiner, and published author of *Here, Where*

*Death Delights*. She enjoys sharing her forensic expertise with fellow writers.

**Susan Keeter** is a writer and illustrator. She co-authored the book, *Three 19th Century Women Doctors*, as well as the autobiographical essay, "Pink Grapefruit and Chocolate Milk." She is a CNY Writers Award winner for children's literature.

**Cate McGowan** is an essayist, poet, and fiction writer. Her debut novel, *These Lowly Objects*, from Gold Wake Press, appeared in 2020. McGowan's essay collection is under contract with Brill.

**Phil Memmer** founded the DWC in 2000. His sixth book of poems, *Cairns*, was published in 2022. He was a 2023 NYSCA Individual Artist Fellow, and also teaches at Hamilton College.

**Yvonne C. Murphy** is a poet and teaches creative writing and studio art at SUNY Empire State University. Her first book, *Aviaries*, was selected for the Carolina Wren Prize in Poetry.

**Sara Parrott** is the author of *Tipping the Water Jar of Heaven* (Nine Mile Books). Her poems have appeared in *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Literary Nest*, *Dappled Things*, and other journals.

**Georgia A. Popoff's** fifth collection of poems, *Living with Haints*, is forthcoming from Tiger Bark Press in spring 2024. She currently serves as Poet Laureate of Onondaga County.

**Keith Stahl** holds an MFA from Syracuse University. His collection, *From the Gunroom*, won the Joyce Carol Oates Prize, and his fiction has been published in *Notre Dame Review*, *Southeast Review*, and others.

**Melissa Tuckey** is author of *Tenuous Chapel* and *Ghost Fishing: An Eco-Justice Poetry Anthology*. She's an emeritus fellow at the Black Earth Institute. She served as a founding co-director of the literary organization Split This Rock.

**Sherre Vernon** (she/her/hers) is the award-winning author of *Green Ink Wings* (Elixir Press) and *The Name is Perilous* (Power of Poetry). Her debut full-length poetry collection, *Flame Nebula, Bright Nova* was released in 2022.

# SPRING 2024 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 4.

Late registrations, where space is available, are subject to a \$15 late registration fee.

Courses (please mark with an "X")	Member Level: YMCA	/ WV	/ Non-Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry as Legacy	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Structure & Surprise	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry & Film	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary World Poetry	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Singing in the Dark: Poetry of Witness and Resistance	Free*	\$65	\$85
<input type="checkbox"/> Make, Break, and Repair	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Lyric Poetry: True to Form	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> DWC PRO Poetry Workshop	Free*	\$145	\$190
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Memoir	Free*	\$90	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> The Spring Flow (Wednesdays)	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> The Spring Flow (Thursdays)	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> The Writer's Life, Part III	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> From News Story to Story	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Book Critique Group	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiction Reboot	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Add Authenticity to Your Mystery Writing	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Point of View in Fiction Writing	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> I'm Talking Here: Diction in Playwriting	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> DWC PRO Prose Workshop	Free*	\$145	\$190
<input type="checkbox"/> Finding Your Space as an LGBTQ+ Writer	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Know Thyself	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Palm-of-the-Hand Stories	Free*	\$120	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> Spring Reading Series Book Club (Includes 8 books!)	\$155	\$155	\$155
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Writers Voice Membership (1 year)	\$45	\$45	\$45

\* YMCA of CNY members are entitled to take one free course per season per membership (a family membership counts as one membership). Additional fees (Book Club, late fees) still apply. All other YMCA members, from anywhere in the country, are eligible for the "WV Member Rate" discount. Call (315) 474-6851 x380 with questions.

TOTAL FEES: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (street, city, zip code): \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

YMCA of Central New York Member? YES / NO (If yes, branch: \_\_\_\_\_) DWC/WV Member? YES / NO

YMCA Member from another YMCA? YES / NO (If yes, name of YMCA: \_\_\_\_\_)

**ALL STUDENTS: please see page 4 for instructions about how to register for courses.**